



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The June 2003 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Pocatello City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 4.9 percent, as shown in Southeast Table 1. This rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point from May 2003 and was below the state rate of 5.2 percent. The difference in the area's labor force statistics from a year ago was phenomenal. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.4 percent in June 2002 to 4.9 percent a year later because the number of individuals employed outpaced the number of individuals unemployed by 480, a reversal from the trend a year earlier. Last year in June, the unemployment rate had risen more than a full percentage point from 4.6 percent in June 2001.

Between May and June 2003, the MSA lost 580 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. The losses occurred in *Government Education* as the result of schools closing for summer. The *Goods-Producing Industries*, which consist of *Natural Resources & Mining*, *Construction*, and *Manufacturing*, gained 40 jobs between May and June 2003. Area construction activity has exceeded the 2002 level and added 30 jobs. The *Service-Providing Industries* lost 620 jobs between May and June 2003. Most job losses, besides those in *Government Education*, occurred in *Business Services* (120) mainly because of fluctuations in call center jobs.

Between June 2002 and June 2003 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* fell by 580. Job gains in *Leisure and Hospitality* (280) were outpaced by job losses in *Trade, Transportation, & Utilities* (150) and *Financial Activities* (110). The decrease in *Health Services* (250) was picked up in *Government Administration* because two hospitals merged, moving some jobs from *Health Services* to *Government Administration*.

SPECIAL TOPIC:

Covered Employment and Wages

Final 2002 Covered Employment and Wage data revealed a loss of 870 (1.5 percent) jobs in Southeast Idaho between

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	June 2003*	May 2003	June 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,050	41,190	40,570	-0.3	1.2
Unemployment	2,010	2,070	2,610	-2.9	-23.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	5.0	6.4		
Total Employment	39,040	39,120	37,960	-0.2	2.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,420	41,280	39,790	-2.1	1.6
Unemployment	1,880	1,970	2,500	-4.6	-24.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.8	6.3		
Total Employment	38,540	39,310	37,290	-2.0	3.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	32,960	33,540	33,540	-1.7	-1.7
Goods-Producing Industries	4,520	4,480	4,360	0.9	3.7
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	20	0.0	-50.0
Construction	1,870	1,840	1,690	1.6	10.7
Manufacturing	2,640	2,630	2,650	0.4	-0.4
Food Manufacturing	430	430	450	0.0	-4.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	140	140	110	0.0	27.3
Machinery Manufacturing	40	40	20	0.0	100.0
Other Manufacturing	2,030	2,020	2,070	0.5	-1.9
Service-Providing Industries	28,440	29,060	29,180	-2.1	-2.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,540	6,640	6,690	-1.5	-2.2
Wholesale Trade	970	1,050	1,060	-7.6	-8.5
Retail Trade	4,300	4,320	4,380	-0.5	-1.8
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,220	1,220	1,200	0.0	1.7
Information	690	690	700	0.0	-1.4
Financial Activities	1,740	1,720	1,850	1.2	-5.9
Professional & Business Services	3,270	3,390	3,300	-3.5	-0.9
Educational & Health Services	2,810	2,700	3,060	4.1	-8.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,460	3,400	3,180	1.8	8.8
Other Services	1,240	1,250	1,190	-0.8	4.2
Government Education	4,380	5,050	5,500	-13.3	-20.4
Government Administration	4,310	4,230	3,720	1.9	15.9

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

2001 and 2002, but average wages increased by \$266 (1.1 percent). Covered Employment is a **count of jobs** held by people who work for employers covered by Idaho's unemployment insurance laws, and includes about 95 percent of all people who work for wages, salaries, tips, and commissions. Southeast Idaho Table 2: Average Annual Covered Employment, and Southeast Idaho Table 3: Average Annual Wages on page 19 show the gain or loss of jobs and wages, by industry, for each of the seven Southeast Idaho counties.

Despite a national recession in 2001, which led to a net loss of jobs in Southeast Idaho in 2002, only three counties suffered job losses: Bannock, Caribou, and Power. The job losses in those counties can be attributed to the closure of the Astaris/FMC phosphorus plant near Pocatello. Over the

year, average wages increased in five of the seven counties. Only Caribou and Power Counties experienced a decline in average wages over the year, the result of job losses in mining and manufacturing.

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Work is scheduled to begin September 1 on a \$3.4 million pedestrian project, which is the first phase of the Old Town Pocatello revitalization. Decorative street lights, curbs, gutter and sidewalk improvements, and landscaping will be completed along portions of Old Town around the Union Pacific Railroad parking lot. The \$650,000 project is one part of a multiple-phase project, which includes a pedestrian mall and multipurpose pavilion designed to invite foot traffic to Old Town.
- Farmers Insurance Group celebrated 50 years of conducting business in Pocatello. The company employs over 200 people at their Pocatello facility and its employees are active in numerous community service groups.

Bear Lake County

- Dusty's Delites Ice Cream Parlor opened in Montpelier. Owners Jody Percy and Terry Lowery visited Southeast Idaho on vacation and loved the area. They returned and opened the business, which offers ice cream, Italian sodas, and bagel sandwiches. The new business is located at 818 Washington.

Bingham County

- Parkway Surgery Center held a grand opening and gave public tours of its new facility on Parkway Drive. The center has two operating suites, five recovery rooms, and state-of-the-art x-ray imaging technology.

Franklin County

- A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Preston at the site where the Oneida Academy will be relocated. Citizens raised funds to move the historic building and will begin fundraising efforts to restore the structure.

Oneida County

- The U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management moved into their new facility at 300 East in Malad. The combined facility will save both agencies money by allowing them to share the cost of rent and utilities.
- A new U. S. Department of Agriculture Service Center opened in August. It houses the Natural Re-

Area/County	2001	2002	# change 2001-2002	% change 2001-2002
Southeast Idaho	56,494	55,623	-871	-1.5
Bannock County	30,903	30,480	-423	-1.4
Bear Lake County	1,455	1,458	3	0.2
Bingham County	13,563	13,644	81	0.6
Caribou County	3,167	3,072	-95	-3.0
Franklin County	2,572	2,634	62	2.4
Oneida County	894	873	-21	-2.3
Power County	3,941	3,463	-478	-12.1

Area/County	2001	2002	# change 2001-2002	% change 2001-2002
Southeast Idaho	\$24,754	\$25,019	266	1.1
Bannock County	\$24,619	\$25,216	597	2.4
Bear Lake County	\$18,278	\$18,927	649	3.6
Bingham County	\$23,412	\$24,192	780	3.3
Caribou County	\$34,558	\$34,201	-358	-1.0
Franklin County	\$19,488	\$20,087	600	3.1
Oneida County	\$17,958	\$18,540	582	3.2
Power County	\$29,916	\$26,350	-3,566	-11.9

sources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency. The facility is located at 200 West in Malad.

Power County

- Direct Communications of Rockland has added on-site technology assistance as a new service. Geeks Direct assists customers with their computer needs, such as repairing and upgrading computers, building customized computers, creating networks, and assisting with security issues.
- Linx Wireless opened on Idaho Street in American Falls. An open house to celebrate the new business was held in July.
- Construction has begun on the addition to the Power County Sheriff's Office in American Falls. The \$152,800 project will include an upgrade of the kitchen, which will allow the county to continue making meals at a reduced cost in-house rather than contracting with other providers for the service. The addition also provides space for securing evidence and sensitive material.

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